

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 14 are amended to better distinguish over the applied references. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following Remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to Figures 1-12. Figures 1-12 have been amended to include an appropriate designation. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objections to Figures 1-12 be withdrawn.

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because they include the reference characters listed in the Office Action but not mentioned in the description. It is respectfully submitted that all of the reference characters listed in paragraph 2 of the Office Action are mentioned in the description. For example, elements 1118, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1126, 1128 and 1130 are mentioned on pages 24-25. Furthermore, the elements listed for Figures 36, 43, 47, 54 and 56 are mentioned on pages 11-12. Finally, the elements listed for Figure 59 are mentioned on pages 39-40. Thus, because all of the listed reference characters in the Office Action are mentioned in the description, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chung (U.S. Patent No. 6,278,973) in view of Mohri (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,597) and Devadas (Decomposition and Factorization of Sequential Finite State Machines). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, the applied references do not disclose or suggest a method for extracting infinite ambiguity from an input finite-state transducer (FST), including at least building a first factor and a second factor, the first factor does not contain any infinite ambiguity while the second factor retains the infinite ambiguity of the input FST, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 14.

Specifically, Chung discloses a language recognition methodology that is provide whereby any finite-state model of context may be used in a very general class of decoding cascades, and without requiring specialized decoders or full network expansion.

Mohri discloses disambiguating a model by labeling alternatives with auxiliary arcs or symbols.

Devadas discloses algorithms for decomposing a finite state machine into smaller interacting machines to optimize area and performance of the eventual logic implementation.

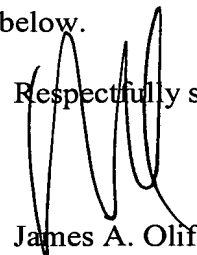
In contrast to the claimed invention, none of the applied references disclose or suggest at least a first factor that does not contain any infinite ambiguity while a second factor retains the infinite ambiguity of the input FST. On the contrary, nowhere in the applied references are these features disclosed or suggested. Thus, it would not have been obvious to combine the applied references to arrive at the claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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